



Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Army update regarding incident at Makua Military Reservation

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, Hawaii (April 7, 2015) — Officials with U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii are working with the Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center to investigate Monday's incident at Makua Military Reservation (MMR).

"First and foremost our thoughts are with the two individuals injured and their families," said Col. Richard Fromm, Commander, U.S. Army Garrison-Hawaii. "We wish them a speedy recovery and will conduct a thorough investigation into what happened."

Two ground maintenance contractors with NuGate Group, LLC were injured after encountering an apparent unexploded ordnance at MMR. The incident occurred approximately two-thirds of a mile inside the south side of the valley.

The workers were conducting routine grass cutting (vegetation maintenance) at Makua as part of the Army's environmental requirements. Regular vegetation maintenance is required to protect natural resources in the valley and prevent wildfires, while supporting military training. Vegetation maintenance occurs at MMR on a continual basis.

When the incident occurred, Army personnel at MMR provided life-saving measures until emergency responders with the Honolulu Fire Department arrived on scene. An Army-contracted medevac helicopter transported the injured to Queens Medical Center.

NuGate Group, LLC has held the vegetation maintenance contract since July 1, 2013. Per the contract, workers are required to attend a high explosive and fire prevention safety briefing, which includes training on safety and accident reporting.

All other details surrounding the incident are under investigation. Army officials ask for the community's understanding as the investigation is underway and for assistance minimizing any rumors or speculation regarding the incident. In addition, the Army is working with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regarding this incident.

The Army will continue to respect the privacy of the individuals involved. Any questions regarding them or their medical status should be directed to their employer, NuGate Group, LLC.